

Appl. No. 10/824,889
Amdt. Dated October 6, 2005
Reply to Office action of Sept. 1, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph of page 9 lines 1-17 with the following amended paragraph:

A- As seen in Fig. 1 a cat's toenail 2 is located on top of the animal's toe pad 4 and thus not in contact with the walking surface unless extended by the muscles in the cat's foot. Further the nail is very sharp and kept in a sharpened state by the nail's fast growth and the shedding of a scale like polymeric sheath. Trimming the tip 6 of the nail 2 as shown in fig. 2 prior to applying a polymeric sheath or nail cap 8 leaves a very small void 10 at the end of the cap ~~10~~ 8. Since the nail 2 must be trimmed prior to applying the cap 8, any adhesive applied to the inside of the cap 8 is forced into the void 10 forming a bond between the cap 8 and the end of the nail tip 6. It is very difficult to apply the precise amount of adhesive to the inside of the cap to prevent excessive adhesive from being extruded from the cap 8 thereby causing the excessive adhesive to become matted in the animal's fur or preventing the cap from being seated properly. In any case as the cat's nail grows it takes only a few days for the polymeric sheath to decay and thus break the adhesive bond allowing the cap 8 to fall off the toe nail 2. It should be noted during this disclosure that the nail caps 8 are very small and difficult to handle. In some cases, forceps and tweezers are

used during the application process. Generally, clean up with strong solvents is an essential part of the process.

Please replace the 2nd paragraph of page 9 starting at line 18 and continuing on page 10 through line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

Looking at Fig. 3, we see that dog's toenails 12 are arranged further forward of the toe 14 and are most often in contact with the walking surface. Nail caps or nail polymeric sheaths 16 as shown in Fig. 4 are easier to apply on dogs because their nails are generally larger than cat's nails and are more exposed beyond the animal's fur. As seen in Fig. 5 the tip ~~20~~ of the dog's nails are clipped prior to application of a nail cap 16 thus leaving a void 18 between the toe nail 12 and the cap 16 in the same manner as that of the cat nail cap application discussed above with the same adhesive application problems. However, since the dog toenails do not have a scaly polymeric sheath, and the nail grows much slower, the cap remains in place much longer. As the nail grows from the base as seen in Fig. 6 the nail cap 16 is simply extended further forward from the toe and into contact with the walking surface. Since the cap 16 has now been in contact for quite some period of time, the cap tends to wear quite rapidly due to the void ~~20~~ 18 seen in Fig. 5 lacking support. The cap 16 generally wears away until the tip 22 of the nail 12 grows out and begins to extend through the cap 16 and the configuration of the nail changes thereby breaking the adhesive bond. In many cases, the remnants of the cap 16 must be manually removed.